

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended. Support for the amendments to claim 4 can be found throughout the specification, for example at p. 12, line 26 to p. 13, line 5. No new matter is added.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action states that WO 01/16244 has not been considered, and must be submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) in order to be considered by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants concurrently file an IDS, submitting WO 01/16244 to the Patent Office for consideration.

II. Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,087,686 to Ansell et al. (Ansell) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,700,891 to Huver et al. (Huver).

Claim 4 recites: "An adhesive material comprising a supporting layer and an adhesive polymer formed from a polymerized and cured urethane prepolymer and a dilution monomer impregnated into or coated onto the supporting layer...wherein the dilution monomer is selected from the group consisting of decyl (meth)acrylate, dodecyl (meth)acrylate, tridecyl (meth)acrylate, octadecyl (meth)acrylate and isomers of these (meth)acrylates." Ansell, alone or in view of Huver, fails to teach or suggest such an adhesive material.

The instant specification discloses: "[t]o adjust the coating viscosity, a solvent or a dilution monomer may coexist in the urethane prepolymer." See p. 12, line 26 to p. 13, line 1. The specification further discloses that the dilution monomer may be: "decyl (meth)acrylate, dodecyl (meth)acrylate, tridecyl (meth)acrylate, octadecyl (meth)acrylate, and isomer of these (meth)acrylates." See p. 13, lines 1-5. Decyl (meth)acrylate, dodecyl (meth)acrylate, tridecyl (meth)acrylate, octadecyl (meth)acrylate, and isomers thereof, contain long chain alkyl groups

having 10 or more carbons. These long chain alkyl groups provide the adhesive polymer with a low glass transition temperature (TG). For example, poly(decylmethacrylate) provides a TG of about -70°C, poly(dodecylmethacrylate) provides a TG of about -3°C, poly(tridecylmethacrylate) provides a TG of about -65°C, and poly(octadecylmethacrylate) provides a TG of about -100°C. The prepolymer and the dilution monomer combine to give the adhesive polymer a low TG, resulting in an adhesion ratio of more than 1:1.5 towards the polyethylene terephthalate and iron. See p. 10, lines 10-21.

Ansell is silent regarding a dilution monomer and the specific dilution monomers claimed in claim 4. Accordingly, Ansell fails to teach or suggest every feature of claim 4. Huver is cited for its disclosure of a composition having a specific molecular formula for adhesive application. However, Huver also fails to teach or suggest the specific dilution monomers claimed in claim 4.

Specifically, Huver discloses an adhesive composition that contains a urethane compound and one or more acrylate or (meth)acrylate monomers. See col. 6, lines 10-11. However, the monomers described in Huver contain only short chain alkyl groups having only a few carbons. See col. 6, lines 10-21. As a result, adhesive polymers formed using the monomers disclosed by Huver will have a high TG. For example, poly(methyl acrylate) provides a TG of about 10°C, poly(methyl methacrylate) provides a TG of about 38-105°C, poly(2'hydroxyethyl methacrylate) provides a TG of about 55-86°C, poly(benzyl methacrylate) provides a TG of about 54°C, and poly(piperidylacrylamide) provides a TG of about 108°C. Because of the high TG, Huver's adhesive polymer is equally adhesive to both metals and plastics. See col. 2, lines 10-14. Thus, Huver actually teaches away from claim 4 by requiring monomers containing only short chain alkyl groups having only a few carbons, resulting in a high TG and thus equal adhesion to metals and plastics

For at least the reasons discussed above, Ansell, alone or in view of Huver, fails to teach or suggest every feature of claim 4. Specifically, Ansell, alone or in combination with Huver, fails to teach or suggest an "adhesive material comprising a supporting layer and an adhesive polymer formed from a polymerized and cured urethane prepolymer and a dilution monomer impregnated into or coated onto the supporting layer...wherein the dilution monomer is selected from the group consisting of decyl (meth)acrylate, dodecyl (meth)acrylate, tridecyl (meth)acrylate, octadecyl (meth)acrylate and isomers of these (meth)acrylates," as required by claim 4. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable over Ansell, alone or in view of Huver.

Claims 2 and 5-11 depend from claim 4 and include all of its features. Thus, these dependent claims are patentable over Ansell, alone or in view of Huver, for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

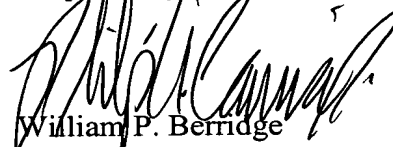
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2 and 4-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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